IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A work attracting apparatus for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the apparatus comprising:

a work attraction section for attracting the work being transported;

a movement section that moves said work attraction section along a transportation direction of said work;

a work detector that detects said work being transported to a predetermined position along the transportation direction and thereupon outputs a detection signal; and

a controller operatively connected to said work attraction section, said movement section, and said work detector;

wherein, upon said controller receiving said detection signal, said controller controls said movement section to move said work attraction section along the transportation direction at the transportation speed, so as to move together with said work being transported from the predetermined position, and

said controller makes said work attraction section ~~attract~~ hold the work while being moved along the transportation direction, from the predetermined position.

2. (previously presented): The work attracting apparatus according claim 1, wherein said work attraction section comprises a Bernoulli chuck.

3. (currently amended): A work attracting apparatus for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the apparatus comprising:

a work attraction section for attracting the work being transported;

a work detector that detects said work being transported toward a predetermined attraction position and outputs a detection signal when the work reaches a detection position ahead of the predetermined attraction position;

a work pushing-up portion that applies pressure to a predetermined part of said work to displace said work in a predetermined amount in an attraction direction; and

a controller operatively connected to said work attraction section, said work detector, and said work pushing-up portion;

wherein, upon said controller receiving said detection signal, said controller makes said work pushing-up portion operate to displace said work in the predetermined amount in the attraction direction and pushes the work up simultaneously with said work ~~attraction section~~ coming to the attraction position.

4. (previously presented): The work attracting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said work attraction section comprises a Bernoulli chuck.

5. (currently amended): A work attraction method, for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the method comprising:

making a work attraction section stand by at a predetermined position for attracting the work being transported;

detecting said work being transported ~~which arrived at~~ to said predetermined position;

moving said work attraction section at a same speed as the transportation speed of said work along the transportation direction of said work for a predetermined time; and [[,]] [[for]]

making said work attraction section attract said work during said predetermined time.

6. (original): The work attraction method according to claim 5, wherein said work attraction section attracts said work by using negative pressure based on the Bernoulli principle.

7. (currently amended): A work attraction method, for attracting work being transported in a transportation direction at a transportation speed; the method comprising:

providing a work attraction section to stand by at a predetermined attraction position for attracting the work being transported;

detecting said work being transported toward said predetermined attraction position, when said work reaches a detection position ahead of said predetermined attraction position;

pushing the work and displacing said work in an attraction direction, in a predetermined amount, simultaneously with said work ~~attraction section~~ coming to the attraction position.

8. (original): The work attraction method according to claim 7, wherein said work attraction section attracts said work by using negative pressure based on the Bernoulli principle.

9. (currently amended): The work attracting apparatus according claim 1, wherein said controller moves said work attraction section, in a direction generally perpendicular to the transportation direction, toward the work such that said work attraction section begins to ~~attract~~ hold the work from the predetermined position along the transportation direction.

10. (previously presented): The work attracting apparatus according claim 3, wherein the attraction direction is generally perpendicular to the transportation direction

11. (new): The work attraction method according to claim 7, wherein the transportation direction is generally perpendicular to the attraction direction.